

Message Text

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ACTION H-02

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 /013 W

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O 221326Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8293

AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

INFO USICA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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FOR H AND NEA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA, OREP

SUBJECT: U.S. CITIZENS CONGRESS EDUCATION FOUNDATION

- TRAVEL

REF: (A) STATE 102639, (B) CAIRO 11357 (NOTAL)

1. ASSUME REFTELS CROSSED.

2. AS DEPT AWARE, WE HAVE NOT UP TO NOW BEEN INVOLVED IN GROUP'S VISIT. NOR HAVE ANY GOE MINISTRIES SPOKEN TO US ABOUT IT. IN EFFORT DETERMINE WHAT ARRANGEMENTS ALLEGEDLY MADE THROUGH EGYPTIAN EMBASSY FOR GROUP'S CAIRO STOP, AMBASSADOR TODAY CONTACTED PRESIDENCY DIRECTOR HASSAN KAMEL TO INQUIRE IF HE WAS AWARE OF VISIT. KAMEL SAID EGYPTIAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON HAD SENT MESSAGE ON VISIT AND THAT PRESIDENT SADAT HAS AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO SEE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GROUP. TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING NOT YET FIXED AND, IN ACCORDANCE PRESIDENCY PROCEDURES, WILL NOT BE FIXED UNTIL GROUP ARRIVES. KAMEL THOUGHT MEETING WILL BE IN ALEXANDRIA. KAMEL KNEW NOTHING ABOUT ARRANGEMENTS WITH OTHER MINISTERS OR HOTEL RESERVATIONS AND SUGGESTED THIS BE CHECKED WITH MFA PROTOCOL OFFICE.

3. AMBASSADOR THEREUPON CALLED MFA PROTOCOL CHIEF SAID HAMZA TO ASK IF MFA KNEW ABOUT, AND IF SO, WHETHER ANYTHING HAD BEEN DONE ABOUT DESIRED MEETINGS WITH EGYPTIAN MINISTERS AND HOTEL RESERVATIONS. AFTER CHECKING, HAMZA ADVISED THAT EGYPTIAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON HAD INDICATED GROUP WISHED TO MEET WITH MFA DIPLOMATIC INSTITUTE DIRECTOR, AMBASSADOR MUHSIN ABAZA, HENCE ACTION RESPONSIBILITY HAD BEEN TURNED OVER TO HIM.

4. AT AMBASSADOR'S REQUEST, PAO NEXT CONTACTED ABAZA, WHO ACKNOWLEDGED THAT AMBASSADOR GHORBAL HAD TOLD HIM OF GROUP'S VISIT DURING GHORBAL'S RECENT CONSULTATIONS IN CAIRO. IT TRANSPRIRED, HOWEVER, THAT ABAZA HAD BEEN TOLD BY GHORBAL THAT GROUP WAS COMING ON APRIL 27 - MAY 2 AND THAT, AS RESULT, ABAZA HAD ARRANGED HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS FOR THIS PERIOD AT SHERATON. WHEN TOLD DATES HAD BEEN CHANGED TO MAY 5-9, ABAZA UNDERTOOK TO TRY TO CHANGE SHERATON HOTEL RESERVATIONS. HE SAID HE WILL MEET GROUP AT AIRPORT ON ARRIVAL. ABAZA KNEW NOTHING ABOUT GROUP'S REQUEST FOR MEETINGS WITH MINSTATE BOUTROS-GHALI AND MINEDUCATION HILMY. WHEN PAO INDICATED GROUP'S DESIRE MEET WITH THESE MINISTERS, ABAZA UNDERTOOK TRY TO ARRANGE APPOINTMENTS.

5. AS INDICATED REF B, AMBASSADOR WILL BE PLEASED MEET WITH GROUP. TIMING CAN BE ARRANGED TO FIT INTO WHATEVER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SCHEDULE ABAZA WORKS OUT. IN ABSENCE CAO WISHON, PAO WILLIAM RUGH WILL ALSO MEET WITH THEM. PAO RUGH DESIGNATED CONTROL OFFICER.

6. REF A SUGGESTS EGYPTIAN STUDENT INTERNS MAY ALREADY HAVE BEEN CHOSEN. SINCE EMBASSY HAS NO IDEA WHO THEY ARE, WE MUST ASSUME THAT GROUP HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH INTERNS DIRECTLY. ABAZA TOLD PAO THAT TWO CANDIDATES WILL ALSO BE ON HAND AT AIRPORT TO MEET GROUP AND THAT THEY WILL ACCOMPANY GROUP WHILE IN EGYPT.

7. SINCE DIPLOMATIC INSTITUTE IS HANDLING VISIT, WE BELIEVE IT SHOULD CONTINUE TO DO SO. IT WILL ONLY CAUSE CONFUSION IF EMBASSY NOW SEEKS TO INTERVENE. SHOULD REQUESTED MINISTERIAL APPTS NOT HAVE BEEN MADE BY TIME GROUP GETS HERE, WE SHOULD BE ABLE ARRANGE THEM AT SHORT NOTICE, ASSUMING THE APPROPRIATE MINISTERS ARE IN CAIRO.

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